

### **Graffiti Elimination**

- ✓ Graffiti can often be removed without damaging the surface it is on.
- ✓ If removal is not possible, the graffiti may be covered by painting over it.
- ✓ Effective graffiti elimination does not leave "shadows" or "ghosts", and does not follow the graffiti pattern such that letters remain apparent after they have been removed or covered.
- ✓ Shaping a removal or coverage area as a neat geometric shape such as a box or circle reduces the potential for "ghosts" or "shadows". If the area is heavily covered with graffiti, it is best to treat the entire surface.



For more Information  
Regarding graffiti  
or other Community Services programs  
Call 817-459-6777  
or visit our website at  
[www.ci.arlington.tx.us](http://www.ci.arlington.tx.us)

P.O. Box 90231 MS 63-0700  
Arlington, TX 76004-3231

***Working together to make Arlington better***

## **Community Services**

# **G r a f f i t i**



*Graffiti is a blight upon our community, and it is only through a cooperative effort of our citizens that graffiti and its negative effects can be controlled.*

For additional information,  
call the Community Services Department

**817-459-6777**

# Community Services

## ***Growing Healthy Neighborhoods*** ***Where you feel safe anytime, anywhere***

### **What is the definition of graffiti?**

Any unauthorized inscription, word, signature, symbol, design or other marking which is etched, written, painted, drawn or applied to any structure, building or property or to any portion or element without the property owner's permission.

### **Does graffiti mean gangs are in my neighborhood?**

Not necessarily. Surveys in other cities have shown that less than 10% of graffiti is gang related. The rest is called "tagging", and is unrelated to gangs. Taggers sometimes work individually and sometimes form "crews", who put their tags on as many places as possible.

### **Why do people create graffiti?**

Some are seeking fame or recognition. Some just want to destroy property. Others are marking their territory to let people know who lives in that neighborhood.

### **What should I do if I see someone creating graffiti?**

Call 9-1-1 if it is in progress. Call Code Enforcement 817-459-6777 if you see it after it is complete.

### **Who is responsible for removing graffiti?**

Property owners, both residential and commercial, are responsible for the timely removal of graffiti. Graffiti not only makes our neighborhoods and commercial areas look unattractive, it affects our property values, business sales, and the community's image. Ignoring graffiti gives the impression that it is acceptable and invites more.



### **City / Citizen Partnership**

Graffiti is required to be removed within forty-eight hours of the tagging. However, if a property owner needs assistance in removing graffiti, they can call Community Services. The property owner can sign a consent form/waiver which allows the city to remove or paint over the graffiti on their property without charge to the property owner. If a property owner decides not to sign the waiver, they must remove or cover the graffiti up within 48 hours of receiving a notice of violation by Community Services. Failure to cover up the graffiti may result in citations or the city performing the abatement and billing the property owner.

### **What if I know someone who creates graffiti?**

You can report graffiti vandals anonymously to the Police Department at 817-459-5628 or on the internet at <http://www.arlingtonnpd.org> or by contacting Community Services at [code@ci.arlington.tx.us](mailto:code@ci.arlington.tx.us)

### **Make Your Property Graffiti Resistant**

- Install improved lighting and motion sensitive lighting.
- Grow vines to cover unpainted retaining walls, or native shrubs with prickly or thorny foliage to block access to walls.
- Install a graffiti resistant coating on your walls.
- Cover drainpipes on commercial buildings to prevent scaling to roof.
- Organize a commercial or residential Community Watch program. Call 817-459-5725 for assistance.
- Create a "paint bank" with paint and supplies that others in the area can use when needed.
- Keep matching paint on hand to paint out graffiti quickly. Studies have shown that eliminating graffiti within 24-48 hours is one of the most effective ways to discourage it.